

# AUGUSTA HISTORICAL BULLETIN

WILSON MEMORIAL HIGH  
SCHOOL LIBRARY



Published by the  
AUGUSTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 18

FALL 1982

NUMBER 2

# AUGUSTA HISTORICAL BULLETIN

Published by the  
AUGUSTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded 1964  
Post Office Box 686  
Staunton, Virginia 24401



VOLUME 18

FALL 1982

NUMBER 2

Copyright 1982 by Augusta County Historical Society

500 Copies printed by  
McCLURE PRINTING COMPANY, INC.  
Verona, Virginia

**Dues are payable January 1 of each year. Any membership not paid by May 1 will be dropped as of that date.  
PLEASE NOTIFY THE SOCIETY OF CHANGES OF ADDRESS!**

Copies of this issue to all members

## CONTENTS

Mills and Milling in Augusta County, Richard M. Hamrick, Jr.

The Last Retreat: A Memoir by John E. Roller,  
Edited by Jamie H. Cockfield

Augusta County Obituaries, 1856, Anne Covington Kidd

Memories of Hanger's Pond, Frances Martin

In Memoriam

New Members since May, 1982

Corrections to Old Homes of Augusta County, #28, May 1982

A purpose of the Augusta County Historical Society is to publish *Augusta Historical Bulletin* to be sent without charge to all members. Single issues are available at \$3.00 per copy.

The membership of the society is composed of annual and life members who pay the following dues:

Annual (individual) .....	\$7.00
Annual (family) .....	\$10.00
Annual (sustaining) .....	\$25.00
Life Membership .....	\$125.00
Annual (Institutional) .....	\$10.00
Contributing—Any amount	

## MILLS AND MILLING IN AUGUSTA COUNTY\*

By

Richard M. Hamrick, Jr.

In Augusta County Parish Order Book, No. 1, dated February 11, 1746, just two months after the county was organized, two roads are mentioned—from David Davis's Mill (on South River) to the top of the mountain and the other from Benjamin Allen's Mill to North River. From a later deed, we know that Gibson Jennings had a mill on Nutt's Mill Creek (now Folly Mill Creek), prior to September 2, 1740. Mills are among the earliest businesses in any community and have been since the earliest days. Mills were frequently older than the parish church, as they were in Augusta County.

The food value of grain was quickly recognized and the development of civilization was linked closely, almost inseparately, with the growth of agriculture. Society as we know it, was created by the settled agrarian peoples, rather than the nomadic hunting tribes.

Water powered mills, Greek mills, were first referred to in writing by Antipater of Thessalonica in 85 B.C. who wrote, "Cease your work, ye who labored at the mill. Sleep now and let the birds sing to the blood red dawn. Ceres has commanded the water nymphs to perform your task; and these obedient to her call, throw themselves on the wheel, force round the axle-tree and so the heavy mill."

During the early Roman period, the vertical wheel, with paddles or blades turned by the force of moving water, an undershot wheel, came into existence. It was first described by Vituvius in "De Architecture" in 15 B.C. The overshot wheel, followed quickly. This was more efficient, using the weight of water for power, so it could be used from slow moving streams or stored water ponds. In Augusta County I believe that undershot wheels were used mainly on the larger rivers, while the smaller streams used overshot wheels.

The basic principles of water powered milling were established and have remained basically the same for over 2000 years.

Most milling was done with the bottom stone fixed and the upper turned by a shaft coming through the center of the lower with the separation between the two stones controlling the fineness of the flour. Stones in general were three or four feet in diameter and worked best at about 125 revolutions per minute. The grinding faces were dressed with patterns of grooves, so the grain was sheared rather than crushed. The

\*Presented at the May 1982 meeting of the Society

stone was cupped slightly and divided into "harps," subdivided into "lands" and into "cracks," as many as 16 to the inch. This work was done with a hammer called a millbill and took about six to eight days to do. In a mill operating full time, the stones had to be dressed every three to four weeks.

We read of grist mills and merchant mills. Both ground grain and some did both kinds of milling. Grist mills did custom grinding on a percentage or "toll" of the grain ground. In 1777 in North Carolina, a miller was entitled to 1/6 of the corn ground and 1/8 of the wheat. The same law provided for inspection of toll dishes and peck measures.

On November 19, 1763, James Huston and Archibald Hamilton qualified in Augusta County Court as "Inspectors of Flour." Their job probably included checking the toll dishes here.

Since the miller alone knew what quantity of flour any given amount of grain might produce and with "toll" as a percentage of milling, millers early earned a reputation for dishonesty. Chaucer in his *Canterbury Tales* has his miller as a brawny, loudmouthed rogue, unscrupulous and quarrelsome.

A merchant mill bought grain, ground and sold it under its own trade name. Some of the Augusta County flours were the following: *Belrose* of Swoope Milling Company, *Melrose* and *White Star* of White Star Mills, *White Lily* of Wade Mill at Greenville, and *White Lilly* of Mossy Creek Mill, and *Pearl* of Mount Solon Mill.

By the 1850's, mills were converting to steel roller mills from stones as hard winter wheat began to be grown. The outside wheels were being replaced with turbines which gave more power with less water.

Along with grain milling, water power was used for other purposes. Carding machines and fulling mills were also operated, frequently as a second operation of a grist mill. A carding machine cleaned the trash from sheep fleece and a fulling mill, pounded the washed, newly woven woolen cloth to drive out the natural oil of the wool. The earliest fulling mill in Augusta dates from 1751.

In addition, many mills had sawmills as an additional operation. These were up and down sawmills which converted later to the circular saws that we have today. Several of the mills, crushed apples in the fall and made cider. By 1770, James Caldwell was making "oyle," linseed oil, from flax seed at his sawmill on South River.

Some other uses made of water power in Augusta County, were to provide blasts for the several iron furnaces and foundries, to grind plaster, and to make fertilizer from bones.

Augusta County was blessed (millers probably thought cursed) with many mills. There are at least 154 sites where mills stood at one time or another. On the Jed Hotchkiss maps of 1885, 81 grist mills, 16

saw mills, 5 combination mills, 1 plaster mill and 1 carding machine are shown. Currently, there are two water run mills in the county. Cosby Mill at Grottoes is our only operating grist and merchant mill (they make Cosby's *Jersey Lily Flour*) and the Bear Planing Mill at Churchville. Just across the county line in Rockbridge, Wade's Mill has resumed operation as a water powered flour mill.

In reading "genealogies" of mills, the same family names keep appearing, among them: Cupp, Kerr, Deffenbaugh, Wade, Cline, and Hanger. This latter family started with Peter Hanger, who lived on Spring Farm, now Gypsy Hill Park, and had his mill on Gum Spring Branch, in front of where Lee High School stands on Churchville Avenue. It was burned on January 6, 1864 by General Hunter. He or his sons started at least three other mills, Frank's Mill, Huff's Mill and Hanger's Mill near Waynesboro.

It is hard for us to realize the damage that floods could do to the economy and food supply, when the mills were all water powered. For instance, in the flood of September 1870, 3 mills and 10 sawmills were destroyed, 6 dams washed out, 7 mills badly damaged, over 4700 bushels wheat and 140 barrels flour damaged.

Some of the earliest mills in present day Augusta County were:

William King was granted permission to dig a mill race through

John Trimble's land on June 18, 1746

William Long permitted to build a mill on November 19, 1746

John Pickens had a mill in June 1747 (on South River near Port Republic)

Robert McCutcheon to build a mill on August 19, 1747 (on Little River in Bell's Valley)

James Trimble, permission to build a mill in November 1747

John Lewis had a mill prior to February 1748 (Lewis Creek)

James Patton had a "Mill Place" in April 1749

John King had mills on Naked Creek and Middle River on March 20, 1767

James Givens had a mill before August 1767

James Kennerly had a mill on South River in November 1767

John Seawright had a mill at his spring before August 18, 1768

William Robertson had a sawmill before May 21, 1777, probably Lewis Creek

In addition to the mills pictured with this article, slides were shown of the following mills or mill sites.

On Middle River or its tributaries:

Baylors, Bowmans, Bells (Swoope Milling Company), Valley, Trinity Point, Churchville (Lock Willow Mill), Huffs (*Mapleton Flour*), Franks (*Early Dawn Flour*), Ralston, Hulvey site.

On South River and tributaries:

Bosserman, Bares (stone remains), Patterson (Gardner), Coiner (*Best Yet Flour*), Harriston (*Bob White Flour*), Red Mill (*Cotton Boll and White Cloud Flours*) and Cosby (*Jersey Lily Flour*).

On Christians Creek and tributaries:

Cochran, Folly, Brands, Sniteman, Laurel Hill (*Virginia's Pride and Lily of the Valley Flour*), Facklers and Asts.

On North River and tributaries:

Kyles site, Seawright, Burkes (West Augusta Mills) and Rockland.

On Little River:

Hiners (Shreckhise)

On Moffetts Creek:

Hutchens and Lucas (Smiley)

Bibliography: Chalkley: *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement*, 2nd Edition

Sloan: *Diary of an Early American Boy*

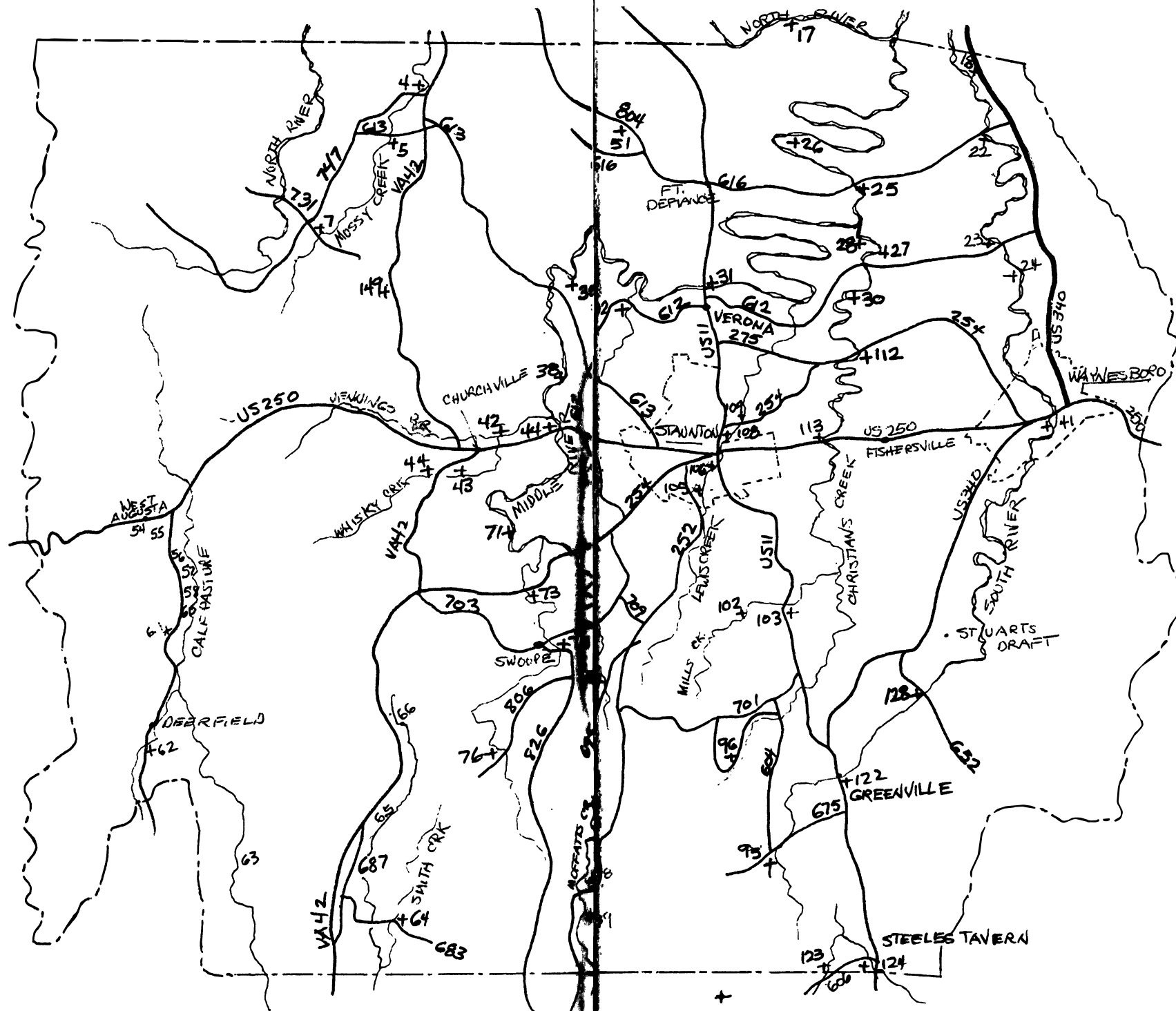
Reynolds: *Windmills and Watermills*

Tunis: *Colonial Craftsmen*

And many friends who looked for and loaned pictures of their family's mills and allowed them to be copied.



Witz and Holt Mill (109)—Built in 1871 by Witz, Holt and Bowling on the site of the woolen mill burned in the Civil War, it was subsequently sold in 1895 to J. F. Tannehill who sold it to Glenn and Crawford who were the last operators, who added an ice plant. This was on the early site of the Robertson and the Lewis Mill, before 1788.



# Mills of Augusta County, Virginia

1. Kiracofe
2. Joseph A. Miller
3. Earhart
4. Mossy Creek
5. Kyle
6. Sheets Paper Mill
7. Mount Solon
8. John George Sawmill
9. Horners
10. McCue
11. Old Sawmill 1870
12. D. Forrer's Sawmill
13. Hogshead
14. Mays
15. Burke
16. Dice
17. Rockland
18. Cosby
19. Snowflake
20. Valley of Virginia
21. Stony Point
22. Harriston
23. Red Mill
24. Henry Coiner
25. Ft. Defiance
26. Knightly
27. Meadow Run
28. Laurel Hill Milling Co.
29. Deffenbaugh
30. Crickenberger
31. Bowling
32. Mowry
33. Poages
34. Sawmill at Byers
35. Hulvey
36. Palmer
37. Wenger
38. Frank
39. Americus
40. Silling
41. Huff
42. Churchville
43. Bear
44. Jordan
45. Acord Sawmill
46. Lone Fountain Sawmill
47. Jennings Gap Sawmill
48. Hendren
49. McCord
50. Burtons
51. Seawright
52. Calhoun
53. Old Sawmill
54. James Cross Mill
55. Nicholas Ryan Sawmill
56. Sawmill Clay Hill Church
57. Kershner
58. Carsons Sawmill
59. Sawmill Clay Hill Church (downstream)
60. Pauly
61. W. H. Clares Sawmill
62. J. Guin
63. Clayton
64. Hiner
65. Moten
66. Forbes Sawmill
67. T. G. Trice Sawmill
68. Siberton
69. H. R. Baltzer
70. Crawford
71. Trinity Point
72. James N. Hoover
73. Valley Mills
74. Gilkerson
75. Swoope Milling Company
76. Trimble
77. G. W. Shuey Sawmill
78. Baylors Sawmill
79. G. W. Baylor
80. G. W. Baylor Sawmill
81. William J. Crawford

82. G. W. Brandenburg's Baylor Mill
83. W. W. Cale
84. Sproul's
85. Adam Yeago
86. William and A. H. Steeles Sawmill
87. William and A. H. Steeles Gristmill
88. Hutchen
89. Lucas
90. McNutt and Robertson
91. Otts
92. Callisons Old Mill
93. Carson Old Sawmill
94. Gilkerson
95. McClung
96. Bosserman
97. Bumgardner
98. Gibson Brothers Old Mill
99. Larew
100. Inglemen
101. John Shannon Carding Mill
102. Cochran
103. Folly
104. Peaco
105. Tannehill Plaster Mill
106. Fackler
107. Garber
108. Ast
109. Witz and Holt Flouring Mill
110. Little Giant
111. Hamilton
112. Sniteman
113. Brands
114. Willies Ford
115. Miss J. T. McComb
116. Bagby
117. Guthrie
118. Churchman
119. Shields Old Mill
120. McCadden
121. Collins
122. Wade
123. McCormick
124. Steele
125. Newton Sawmill
126. Hawpe
127. Bare Sawmill
128. Bare Mill
129. Stony Run Sawmill
130. Alexander Sawmill
131. Kennedy Creek Sawmill
132. Z. McChesney's Burnt Mill
133. D. M. Hyden Sawmill
134. D. H. Hyden
135. L. Wagner Grist Mill
136. A. H. H. and G. B. Stuart
137. Palmer
138. Whistler's (Big Spring)
139. Baker
140. Gallaher Flour Mill
141. Patterson
142. Gallaher Sawmill
143. Koiner
144. "Nick" Coiner
145. W. F. and J. J. Harner
146. Patrick
147. Hildebrand's Sawmill
148. Hanger
149. Ralston
150. Bowman
151. Palmer
152. Col. George Baylor
153. Baylor
154. Dudley



Fort Defiance Mill (25)—Built prior to 1800 when Jacob Humbert bought land on north bank of Middle River. It passed through various hands and included an 1858 deed for ½ interest in a merchant, grist, saw and plaster mill. The last owners were the Grove family who ground, *None Better*, *Cream of the Harvest*, *Peacock*, *Nor-so-na Self Rising* and *Defiance Self Rising* flours. It burned in the 1950s.



Knightly Mill (26)—Located on Middle River near New Hope, it generated more horsepower than any other mill on the river. It was owned by the Cline Family and antedated the Civil War. In the 1920s it was converted to electric generation, as the Knightly Light and Power Company and was absorbed by the Shenandoah Light and Power Company and subsequently by VEPCO.

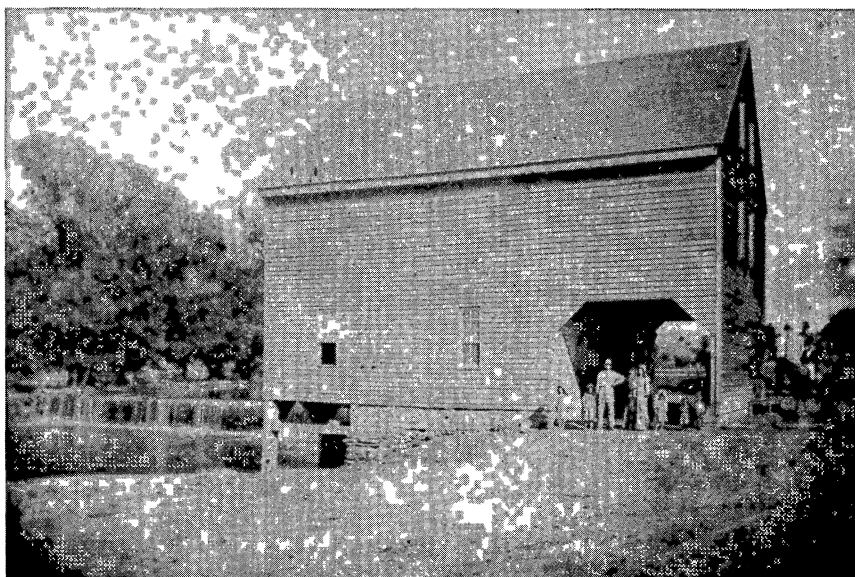


McClung's Mill (95)—Located about a mile west of Greenville it was built by John Tate, Sr. about 1761, frame with a stone foundation and an overshot wheel. It was sold to James McClung and remained in that family until 1903 when it was sold to Charles McClure. It ceased operation prior to the middle 1930s.

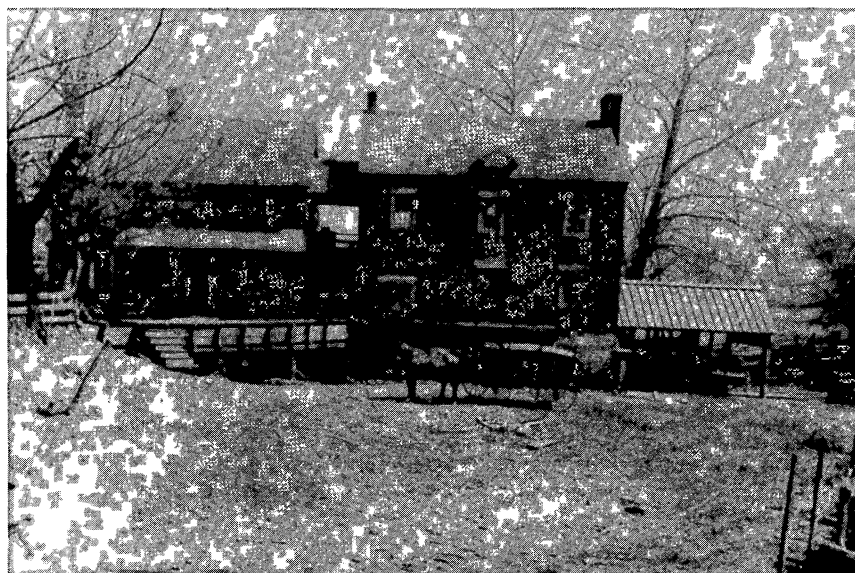


Drumheller Mill (27)—Located on Meadow Run, near Middle River, it was built before 1800 and was last owned and operated by Carson M. Drumheller and had been known as Garber's Mill, Sites Mill and Meadow Run Mill. It ground *White Rose Fancy Flour*, feed, sawed lumber and made cider in the fall.





Eureka Mill (30)—Located on Christians Creek between Laurel Hill and Barren Ridge. It was built about 1819 and was known at times as Bushongs, Crickenberger or Shreckhise Mill. It used an undershot wheel and was torn down in 1932 and the materials used to build a house in Laurel Hill. The family is Mr. and Mrs. George Crickenberger who ran it with their family.



Bear Grist and Carding Mill (43)—Located on Whiskey Creek behind present day Bear Funeral Home, the log portion dates prior to 1812, the brick portion, a grist mill, was built in 1829 and torn down in 1926. The log part was replaced with the building now used as a planing mill in 1908. This mill is still owned by the Bear Family.



Jordan's Mill (44)—Located on Whiskey Creek, at Churchville, this was a feed and cider mill as shown in the picture. It was also known earlier as Sterrett's Mill.



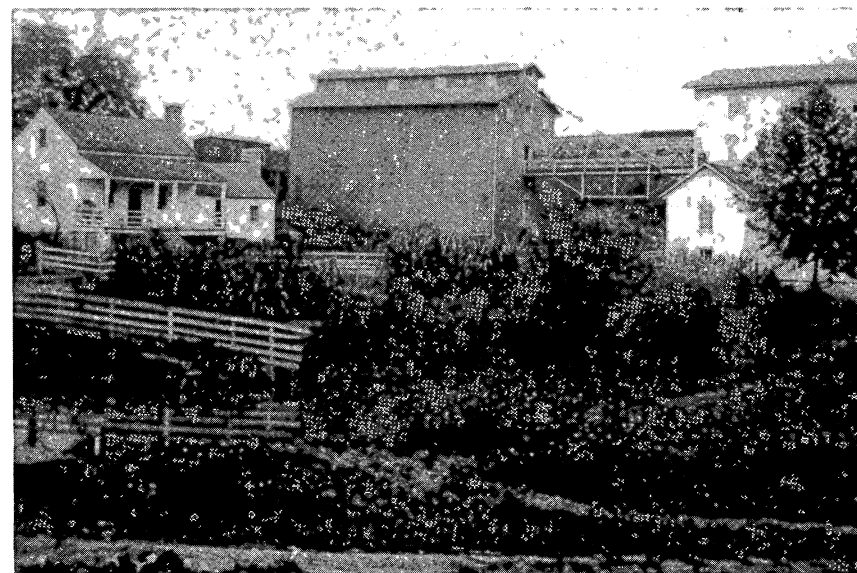
Greenville Mill (122)—This was called Acorn Mill in 1865 and was later operated by J. H. Wade in the 1930s when he ground *White Lily Flour*. Winter, with frozen water and wheels, was a time millers disliked.



Gardner Mill (141)—Located in present downtown Waynesboro, this was the original J. H. Patterson Mill. The mill shown burned about 1925 and was rebuilt. The new mill burned March 21, 1953.



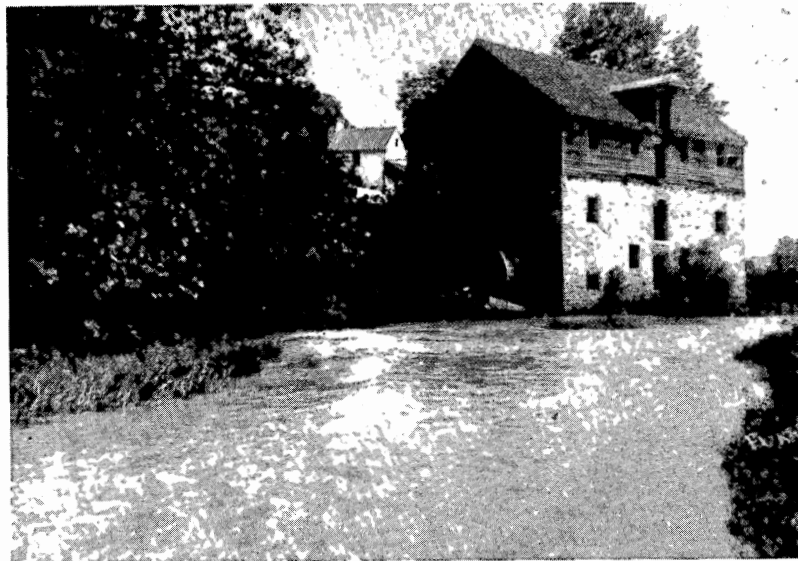
Quick's Mill (32)—Built about 1820 on Falling Spring Creek by Lewis Mowry, Jr., it remained in the family until about 1883. It was purchased by W. J. Quick in 1906 and operated by him until 1937. The last owner was William S. Runion. The mill made *White Rose Flour*.



Augusta Roller Mills (31)—Located on Middle River at Verona, it is pictured at its zenith when it ground 150 barrels of flour daily. The brands produced were: *Porcelain Patent*, *Snow Flake Patent*, *Augusta Family*, *Augusta Extra*, and *Moss Rose Extra Flours*. The mill pictured was built about 1867, insured for \$1500.00 in 1870 when it was 36 x 50 feet in size, and burned about 1940.



Mt. Solon Mill (7)—Built on Mossy Creek at Mt. Solon about 1826 by Abraham Smith it was operated in the mid 1800s by C. T. A. Cupp and last operated by S. A. Stover from 1902 until the 1950s. It was torn down in recent years.



Mossy Creek "Old Mill" (4)—This mill was probably built about 1780 by Henry "Iron Man" Miller near his iron works. It was later acquired by Daniel Forrer who ran it as the Augusta Milling and Mercantile Company and manufactured *White Lilly Patent*, *Virginia Patent*, *Bakers Choice* and *Tip Top* flours. It was destroyed and a new mill built across the river along with a new dam.

## THE LAST RETREAT: A MEMOIR

By

John E. Roller

Edited with an introduction by Jamie H. Cockfield\*

John E. Roller was born in 1844 outside Staunton, Virginia, of Huguenot and German parents. He rejected admission into the University of Virginia in 1861 to join the Confederate Army, but being too young to formally "muster in," he was only able to attach himself to the First Company of the Virginia Cavalry, and with this unit he saw action at the First Battle of Manassas. From 1862 to 1863, he attended Virginia Military Institute and graduated with distinction in military engineering. Afterwards he served for a time in Charleston, South Carolina, but in 1864 he was transferred to the Richmond-Petersburg area where he remained until General Lee's final retreat in the spring of 1865.

Roller attended law school at the University of Virginia after the war and was admitted to the Virginia bar in 1867. He soon became one of that state's most prominent land lawyers. He served in the State Senate from 1869 until 1872, when Governor Gilbert C. Walker appointed him Major-General of the State Militia.

Roller was also a man of letters. He had a fascination for history and belonged to numerous historical societies. For years he served as President of the Rockingham County Historical Society. His activities in this area earned him an honorary doctorate from Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio.

The *memoir* of the last retreat of the Army of Northern Virginia was found among his papers, which are now in the possession of the Manuscripts Division of the Alderman Library at the University of Virginia. The extant manuscript is fifteen legal pages of single-spaced pica type and includes many pointless digressions and much unrelated material, all of which has been edited from the present form. While the style of the author has been changed here and there to make it more readable, his colloquialisms and malapropisms are left unaltered.

It is impossible to date the writing of the manuscript, and whether or not it was originally typed by Roller cannot be determined. Yet judging from the incredible detail given (military units, time of day events took place, etc.), it had to have been committed to paper soon after the events, or based on a closely kept campaign diary.

In addition to tracing the retreat of the Army of Northern Virginia from the Richmond-Petersburg "fortress" to Appomattox, Roller de-

\*Associate Professor of History, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia

scribes such historical scenes as the refusal of deserting soldiers to obey General Lee's orders to return to the lines and the death of what Roller believed to be the last Union soldier to die in Virginia. He also gives a good eye-witness view of the valley of Virginia in the last days of the Confederacy.

\* \* \* \* \*

In early 1865 I had been sent to Richmond to the Chief of the Engineer Bureau of the War Department to procure some supplies that were needed for our work on the lines at Petersburg, and I had a four days' leave of absence in which to accomplish the task. I met with such a cordial reception at the hands of Col. A. L. Rives, the acting Chief of the Engineer Bureau, that my work was accomplished within an hour, and I had three and a half days of my leave unused.

After leaving the war department, I called on several young ladies whom I had known, and who were then on a visit to Richmond. I found that their plans were all set for leaving Richmond the next morning by the South Side Railroad . . . [to] make their way home [destination unclear] by the stage. The canal from Lynchburg to Lexington had been destroyed by floods, and since they were wholly out of repair, the ladies suggested that I go along with them. I concluded that if I could get home within the three days of my unexpired leave, I could spend a night at home, and then return safely to the army without danger of arrest if my leave had expired. On our route we crossed the High Bridge near Farmville. I little dreamed that in less than ten days from that date I would be under that same bridge in the hottest place in which it was my fortune to be placed during the whole war.

At Lynchburg I left the train, and the ladies continued on to their destination. The next morning just as daylight began to break, I took my leave and seeking the tow-path of the canal, I started on my hike to Lexington, which I hoped to reach by nightfall in order to catch the stage the next day to Staunton. That march of forty-five miles was the hardest I ever made, but my sinews had been toughened by marching with the army, so I accomplished the journey fairly easily, but not arriving in Lexington until about half past nine that night. At some parts of the route the water was over the towpath, and I had to climb over the jutting promontories that over-hung the towpath.

At Lexington I had a good night's sleep and plenty to eat, but I found to my dismay that the stage lines, two coaches that were running from Lexington to Staunton, had been engaged three or four days

ahead. The price of a seat was \$100. I found a Confederate soldier, however, and bought him out, paying him \$300 for his seat. He and his comrade divided the other seat alternately between themselves, with one walking first and then the other, all the way to Staunton.

Immediately after getting to Staunton in the evening, I started out for my father's, fifteen miles north of Staunton. On my arrival, I found the old home still standing. Sheridan had, however, "visited" that region and destroyed all buildings from barns and stables to outhouses, together with the largest crop of wheat that had ever been grown. There was nothing standing but the old residence and the grove of old trees in the yard. Most of the Negroes had gone away with the Federal Army, but some still remained faithful to the land. There seemed to be joy enough at my getting home safe and well to compensate for all the losses that had been incurred.

I remained at home but twelve hours, and then I started eastward to rejoin the army. My brother Douglas accompanied me, both of us on horseback, across the pass at Brown's Gap. On our way towards the army, we came into the path of Sheridan's army, which some weeks before had defeated Early at Waynesboro and crossed the mountains at Rockfish Gap. Sheridan had then moved down towards Richmond by the road from Rockfish Gap to Charlottesville, and passed by the famous Three Chop road toward the beleaguered city. The road presented a very curious aspect. The horses of Sheridan's command found it easier to step in the track of their predecessor than to try to march independently through the mud. The result was that the road seemed to be thrown up in something like sweetpotato rows across the road. No track had been beaten down at the time we passed over it, so that the road, as far as Charlottesville, was almost impassable.

At Charlottesville we were hospitably entertained by an old classmate, and the next morning we went down the same road toward Louisa. Near Keswick I gave up my horse to my brother and he returned home while I continued on to the army. I had learned that a train on that part of the Central Railroad was coming as far as Keswick and that on its return it would probably carry all returning soldiers as far as the South Anna River. The Central Railroad had some bad breaks in it caused by the destruction of Sheridan and his men. An engine and some cars had been left untouched at Gordonsville, and they were being utilized as far as the track was intact. The train soon came by me, and I rode on it down to a point somewhere near Frederick's Hall where the track was again torn up. At Gordonsville, I had been joined by a number of soldiers from Greene and Madison counties, most of whom belonged to General [Henry] Wise's brigade. As I had served with some of these men in Charleston, South Carolina, they knew me, and we were soon



on cordial terms. I was the only officer in the party, and they seemed to look to me as their leader.

In Hanover county the night overtook us, and I slept at the home of a Mr. Nelson who owned an old-fashioned Virginia plantation near the river on the south side of the railroad. I had a word of introduction to the family from a friend, and they made me welcome. Nothing was too good for me, but the whole place had been devastated by Sheridan's soldiers. The head of the family was a true specimen of the old time Virginia gentleman. The war had never visited them before Sheridan came, and he could not realize its horrors. With tears in his eyes, he told me how they had stolen his horses. Especially did he lament a driving horse, the pet of his daughter. He told me how they had appropriated [sic.] everything on the place that could be used for food or comfort, or even for cooking food. The old gentleman seemed to grow in intensity of feeling, until he appeared almost beside himself. Pathetically and grandly, he said, "Why, sir, they even searched me, an old Virginia gentleman—they searched me!" It did not occur to me then, for the old fellow's indignation seemed to be quite understandable, but I have often thought of the incident since as one that could never have occurred with any other than a Virginian of the old school.

The next morning we resumed our journey toward Richmond, crossing the North Anna by means of a boat. On the other side we met a train that was still using the railroad from Richmond as far as the site of the North Anna River Bridge. On this train, however, were two passengers, one of whom had been a brigadier in the Confederate Army. The other had received high honors at Old Virginia [University of Virginia]. I heard them tell some of the men that it was useless for them to go back to the army, that the thing was over. But I was bold enough to speak for the men, and I told the man who made the statement that he ought not to talk to the men in that manner. "We are going back to the army where duty calls us," I said, "and the next campaign will bring us success." The men echoed my sentiments and we went on.

\* \* \* \* \*

[Roller reached Richmond on Friday, drawing his pay the next day. He spent part of it on oysters at \$60.00 a plate but still had some of it with him at Appomattox. Friday afternoon he went to Petersburg, where he learned of the death of his friend and schoolmate, Captain Barksdale Warwick of General Wise's staff.]

The work of destruction and evacuation in Petersburg which was begun that night, continued during the whole of the next day. The tobacco in the warehouses in the city was burned where it stood and at

some risk of burning the city with it. Besides this destruction, all sorts of preparation for the coming evacuation was made by the citizens; some were to remain and care for the property in the city, while others were to leave with the army.

That night I was placed in command of a detachment of Company G of the second Regiment of Engineer troops. With this detachment, I was entrusted with the job of destroying the bridges across the Appomattox. There were great stores of clothing and other supplies that might have been issued to the army near the railroad bridge between the Pocahontas and Ettick bridges, but these stores were burned along with the bridges. After waiting until all the men who desired to leave Petersburg had crossed the river, we set fire to the bridge at Ettick and waited until its destruction was assured. As the daylight was breaking we began our march to rejoin the army, which had then been gone seven hours. I recall very little of the march through Chesterfield, except that it seemed to me that we moved much too far toward the center of the county before we crossed the Appomattox River. We met some of the stragglers of the forces that had left Richmond the night before and followed in the rear of the army until late that night when we camped somewhere near the crossing of the Appomattox.

\* \* \* \* \*

Among the things that are especially vivid in my memory of the retreat was the peach trees in full bloom. There was a fragrance from the early blossoms in the woods and fields. This fragrance, however, was but poor compensation for the meager food that we had. Parched corn and other "delicacies" of the Confederate menu were in great demand. Every farm house was visited by scores of men in search of food. We chewed sassafras roots and nibbled at the open buds from the peach trees as we marched along.

It was near Farmville that we had our most serious experience in the rear of the army. The little command with me had not caught up with the main body of the army, and on that particular day we happened to be with the Stonewall Division under the command of General Jim Walker. Our group was in the very rear of the last division. Grant's pursuit was vigorous and merciless. The Federal army had gotten close to our rear and was following us with artillery and infantry. As we ascended each hill, they would have their artillery planted on the hill we had just left, and we would be greeted with shells as we marched over the next. Then for a few minutes we would be in safety, as we went down on the far side of the hill. Then they would get another whack at us. They repeated this sort of thing until the retreating soldiers became somewhat demoralized.

\* \* \* \* \*

I remember nothing about the crossing of Sayler's Creek except that I have an idea it was attended with difficulty. We did not cross it until late in the evening, long after the sun had set. On the opposite hill we found the officers trying to rally the men, and General Lee himself was in the road begging them to form up again. As he stood there in line as a rallying point, there were some men who would turn away from General Lee and move down in front of us to our right, pass to the rear behind the right and disappear. I tried to stop some of these myself by telling them that they were poor soldiers who would not rally when General Lee asked them, but such appeals went unheeded.

How far we marched that night has passed from my memory, but the next morning found us on the west side of the High Bridge, and as tired and hungry a set of men as ever lived. My messmate Berkeley Minor shared with me his last few grains of parched corn. At this time Colonel Talcott detailed our company of the second Virginia with orders to supply ourselves with faggots and dry grass and go back and burn the wagon road bridge in order to obstruct the march of the enemy. The Federal troops were already on the opposite side of the valley on the hill overlooking it, and the place bristled with artillery fire. Our line of skirmishers appeared and moved toward the enemy. Almost before they passed us, the music began, for the enemy was coming toward the stream and was swiftly moving their forces toward the wagon bridge. Our skirmishers, however, drove back their line of skirmishers but not without loss. I remember that several men struck by balls cried out in agony as some would do when mortally wounded. Some of the skirmishers were struck in the head and body. They went down as the sound reached our ears of the thud which came from the bullet piercing their bodies.

\* \* \* \* \*

[Unable to burn the High Bridge (which Roller mentioned in the early part of his memoir), the company retreated, having been decimated by the Union forces. Roller reached Farmville, where General Lee had formed his line of battle and was watching the approach of the Union army. Roller visited the commissary where he "appropriated" a plug of tobacco, which he traded for rice, which he cooked in a discarded frying pan.]

Across the river on the top of the hill, I saw General Lee with his men, watching the approach of the enemy from the Farmville side. Shortly thereafter, a tremendous engagement broke out almost in the

rear of the general, and the line of men on the heights of Farmville were quickly moved back to what was afterward called "the forks of the road." The fresh troops on the Federal side from that quarter were waiting and one of the fiercest and bloodiest battles of the retreat was fought here. The old army of Northern Virginia showed its mettle on all these fields, and the fight at "the forks of the road" was one of the most successful of the war. [Roller does not explain how the army saved itself from encirclement.]

A day or two later, we were in Appomattox. No orderly chain of events have remained in my memory in regard to the march from Farmville toward Appomattox. I do remember meeting some of the Old Stonewall Brigade, one of whom at least, told me that he believed he would go home. He had a chance as there were no guards on that side of the line of march. He would know better at home what to do. It did not seem to him that there was any use in further contest. The men were cheered by some promise of foreign intervention, a rumor that the French had declared for us, and again, by the suggestion that [General Joe] Johnston was marching to our assistance, leaving Sherman to his own movements in the South. The fact was that the majority of soldiers in the ranks and the officers of subordinate rank were willing to trust their leaders to the last.

\* \* \* \* \*

[General Johnston was, of course, moving northward, but he had no intention of ignoring Sherman, as the battle of Bentonville, North Carolina, demonstrates. On Sunday morning, Roller heard the sound of fighting and felt the battle had gone in favor of the Confederates.]

One of the officers had some trouble with one of his men who refused to march. I think the man turned to leave the ranks and rushed back down the hill. I saw the captain kick him back into the ranks. The soldier took his place, and thereafter, was indistinguishable from the others. I felt sorry for the fellow because of the stigma which it seemed to me had been put on him, but which no doubt was necessary. [The fighting stopped and a rumor circulated that a white flag had gone out. The men waited in expectation when a curious incident occurred.]

At this time a solitary horseman rode up to the right of our lines opposite our battalion of the second regiment of engineer troops. No one seemed to look upon him as a Federal soldier when he first made his appearance. The man came steadily on, and as he neared us, with his sword drawn, he called out, "Surrender!" I think he used an oath. Some man in the ranks, probably one of the old veterans of the two companies of the second regiment, called out, "That's a yankee! Kill him!" With-

out orders, a hundred men fired, and both horse and rider fell just where they stood, like the melting of a pile of snow. The horse evidently did not catch the legs of the soldier under him, and as the fellow's feet touched the ground, he tottered toward the line and fell among the men. He was down only a moment or two before these old vets had all his pockets wrongside out. I have always said that he was the last soldier killed by Lee's army. The firing to our right had ceased long before, and it was a mere chance that caused this fellow to be fired on after the surrender had actually taken place.

A short while later we moved back to a little flat in an orchard near the Sweeney House, and some of the men of the regiment were detailed as guards for General Lee's headquarters. The General had made his headquarters near us in the orchard, and we were the only troops between him and the courthouse.

From this point we saw General Lee with some members of his staff take his departure toward the courthouse at Appomattox which was in sight on the hill. We camped in the orchard at the Sweeney House, the same house from which came Joe Sweeney, whom I knew so well as a young private in the First Virginia Cavalry in the first year of the war under Colonel J. E. B. Stuart and Lieutenant Colonel Fitzhugh Lee. I heard Sweeney pick the banjo the first night I ever slept in camp, and it seemed strange that I would end my military career at his old home.

On his return I saw General Lee, surrounded by some of the men, but I was not near enough to hear exactly all that was said. We were told, however, that General Lee finished with, "Men, we have fought the war together, and I have done the best I could for you."

General Lee had had his headquarters near the famous apple tree in the orchard while the preliminaries were being arranged for his meeting with General Grant. I saw that same apple tree on Wednesday morning, the day on which we left Appomattox. We made our way toward the James River on our way home . . . All the troops left Appomattox that day, and the men with whom I had been serving since the twelfth of May, 1864, went southward to their homes. I could have gotten a piece of the apple tree myself if I had wanted it. I have so often regretted since that I did not.

We had had no bread or salt from Sunday until Wednesday, and I got a present of a cold cake of cornbread from a colored woman at the first house we reached on crossing the James River. It was so delicious and refreshing that I have never forgotten it from that day to this. That night found us in a hospitable home on the Nelson side of the river, and the march home to Staunton, though full of incidents of interest to me personally, was without anything of importance to be told to others.

## Augusta County Obituaries, 1856

By Anne Covington Kidd

(Continued from Volume 18, Number 1)

Near Marshall, Saline county, Missouri, on the 4th inst. . . . Mrs. Lucy Ann ALLEN, wife of Mr. Geo. W. Allen, formerly of this county. [21 May 1856]

On the 17th October last, at Friendship, McDonough county, Illinois, Mrs. Margaret ALLISON, wife of Mr. William Allison, formerly of this county. [RV 20 December 1856]

Maj. Bayliss ANDERSON, many years ago a citizen of this place, died at Lewisburg last week . . . Last summer Mr. A. had charge of the Dry Creek Hotel, near the White Sulphur Springs. [23 April 1856]

At his residence, near Deerfield, Augusta Co., on the 17th of October last, Mr. T. R. ANTHONY, aged about 45 years. [19 November 1856]

FATAL ACCIDENT . . . John AREHART met with an accident on the 30th of January, which caused his death on the 31st . . . horses took fright near Mr. D. Baylor's . . . resided near the mouth of Middle River in this county. [RV 16 February 1856]

At his residence in Middlebrook, Mr. James ARMSTRONG, on . . . the 27th of April . . . has left behind . . . an afflicted and bereaved widow and daughter, (also a widow of only eight months.) These two deaths . . . Mr. Armstrong and Mr. E. G. EVERETT, deprive this family of their last earthly protection. [14 May 1856]

On the 1st inst., \_\_\_\_\_ [BARNHART], infant son of Gideon and Martha Barnhart. [RV 16 August 1856]

Suddenly, on . . . the 4th inst., at his residence, near Churchville, in Augusta county, Michael BEAR, aged about 65 years. [RV 8 March 1856]

On the 22d inst., David BEARD . . . of this county . . . left no wife or children. [30 July 1856]

On Sunday morning last . . . Mrs. Ann A. BELL, wife of J. Wyat Bell, Esq., of this county. [7 January 1856]

James BELL, Esq., of this county, died on Wednesday night last, in the 83d year of his age. For many years . . . was senior Justice of the Peace. [23 January 1856] . . . the 16th inst. . . born in 1772, within one mile of the spot where he died . . . served as Coroner . . . as High Sheriff, and Representative in the Legislature of Virginia . . . member of the Presbyterian Church. [RV 26 January 1856]

On Thursday last . . . Mrs. Margaret BELL, relict of the late James Bell, Esq., of this county. [5 March 1856] On the 27th of Feb., 1856,

Mrs. Margaret BELL, of Augusta county, aged 68 years . . . wife of James Bell, Esq., lately deceased . . . [was] a mother, and a step-mother . . . survived him [husband] six weeks . . . Their dust sleeps with their kindred in the grave yard of Augusta Church. [16 April 1856]

Tribute of Respect . . . Crusaders of Temperance . . . [for] Mr. Wm. G. BOOKER . . . J. M. Boyd, J. L. Massie, H. A. White, Committee. [23 April 1856]

On the 7th inst., at the residence of her Father, Mr. Baxter Brawford, near Greenville, in this county, his eldest daughter, Melinda Jane BRAWFORD, aged 16 years . . . had been a pupil of the Female Institute in Staunton. [20 February 1856] . . . Melinda Jane BRYDFORD [RV 23 February 1856]

Departed this life, near Mt. Solon, in this county, on the 23rd of December last, Timothy BRITTON, in the 92nd year of his age . . . was a native of Bucks co., Pa., where he married about 1779, and the following year, removed to Rockingham county, near the village of McGaheysville. About 35 years since, he removed to the place where he died and reared a family of twelve children, six of which survive him . . . for many years a member of the Presbyterian church. [23 January 1856]

On Wednesday morning the 30th ult., at the residence of Alexander Gardnier in this county, Mr. James BROWN, in the 83rd year of his age. [13 February 1856]

At his residence in this county, on the 24th ult. . . Mr. James BROWN, in the 79th year of his age. [2 July 1856]

We regret to learn that Mr. Jacob BRUBECK . . . of this county, committed suicide one day last week. [5 November 1856] . . . on the 30th ult. . . . between 40 and 45 years of age, and leaves a wife. [RV 8 November 1856]

In this place, at the residence of her father, Samuel Clark, Esq., on Friday last, Mrs. Jane BUMEGARDINER. [26 March 1856] On the 21st inst. . . Mrs. Jane BUMGARDNER, aged about 55 years. [RV 22 March 1856]

On the 6th day of December, 1856 . . . Captain Thomas CALBREATH . . . born in the county of Augusta, in 1768 . . . For forty years . . . a ruling elder in the Tinkling Spring Church . . . His father brought with him from Scotland . . . a certificate of his membership with the Presbyterian Church . . . The Father of Capt. Calbreath, and his two eldest sons, William and John, served in the Revolutionary War, and were at the battle of Yorktown. [1 January 1856]

On Wednesday the 24th ult., Elijah D. CALVERT, infant son of A. B. and Susan Calvert, aged 2 years, 6 months and 24 days. [RV 18 October 1856]

On Tuesday last, in the 62nd year of her age, Miss Elizabeth CALVERT, a resident of this place. [16 April 1856] . . . at the residence of Mr. George Platt, on the 7th inst. [RV 12 April 1856]

. . . Miss Mary CAMPBELL . . . about 17 or 18 years of age, lost her life on the 5th of December last, at the residence of Mr. William Sillings, dec'd., in this county. *True American*. [RV 19 January 1856]

At Chapel Hill, Augusta county, October 9th . . . Mrs. Ann C. CHURCHMAN, wife of John Churchman, sr., in the 57th year of her age . . . was born in Staunton, March 10th, 1800 . . . member of Protestant Episcopal Church . . . wife, mother, sister. [5 November 1856]

On Sunday afternoon last the venerable Samuel CLARKE, Esq., died at his residence in this place . . . aged 88 years . . . born in York county, Pennsylvania, but emigrated from Frederick, Maryland, to this place, when he was about eighteen . . . practiced law, and was at the same time Commissioner in Chancery . . . represented the county for one or two sessions in the Legislature, and several times held the office of Mayor of Staunton . . . an elder in the Presbyterian Church, and a Director of the Western Lunatic Asylum from the foundation of the institution to the day of his death. [3 September 1856] Tribute of Respect . . . Staunton Bar, at Union Hall . . . Samuel CLARKE, Esq., late a member of the bar, the Hon. A. H. H. Stuart was called to the chair and N. K. Trout appointed Secretary. Col. John B. Baldwin . . . offered the following resolutions . . . second of Wm. Kinney . . . Samuel CLARKE . . . President of Western Lunatic Asylum, as trustee of our public schools and academy, as fiduciary of many important and difficult trusts. [3 September 1856] Tribute of Respect . . . Board of Directors of the Western Lunatic Asylum . . . the Session of the Presbyterian Church . . . Mr. L. Waddell, sr., was appointed a committee . . . CLARKE removed to this place with his father in . . . 1786 . . . was the only survivor with one exception, of the inhabitants of this place when he removed to it . . . Staunton Lodge, No. 13 . . . oldest inhabitant and Mason in the community. [17 September 1856, RV 6 & 20 September 1856]

At his residence in this county, on Monday last, James Addison COCHRAN, Esq. [21 May 1856] Tribute of Respect . . . Churchville Division No. 250, Sons of Temperance . . . bereaved wife and children . . . John B. Davis, Jos. Wilson, E. Gerding, Harvey Bear, J. S. Lambert, Committee. [4 June 1856]

Departed this life, on Monday morning the 25th ult., Ida Jane [COOTES], daughter of Dr. John and Louisa Cootes, in the 2d year of her age. [RV 8 March 1856]



At his son-in-law's, in Mt. Solon, on Sabbath evening the 10th inst., John F. COURSEY, about sixty years of age . . . was the elder child of a large family raised in the Long Meadow, of this county, and himself leaves a numerous family. [13 February 1856]

On Friday evening last, Mr. Peter CRICKARD, for many years a resident of the vicinity of Staunton. [20 August 1856] Tribute of Respect . . . Staunton Lodge No. 13 . . . widow. [24 September 1856] Near this place on the 16th inst. . . . born in 1806, at Downpatrick, Ireland emigrated to this country when young, and was engaged for many years as a contractor in Maryland and Virginia. [RV 30 August 1856]

At the residence of her father-in-law, in this county, on the 17th inst. . . . Mrs. Margaret G. CULLEN, wife of Dr. J. H. Cullen, in the 30th year of her age. [30 April 1856]

On Tuesday morning last, Mr. Charles L. CUSHING, of this place. [7 May 1856] At the residence of his mother, Mrs. Ann E. Cushing. . . on . . . the 6th instant . . . in the 28th year of his age. [RV 10 May 1856]

On Wednesday last a negro man named Mitchell belonging to Mr. B. Fleming, of Spottsylvania, killed another negro named DAVID, the property of Mr. G. Harris, of Hanover, on the 13th Section of the Central Railroad, west of Staunton. [2 July 1856] . . . Mitchell . . . aged about 16 years, the property of Boswell Fleming . . . charged with killing DAVY, slave to Garland Harris. [RV 28 June 1856]

In McLain county, Illinois, on the 19th day of June, 1856, Mr. John DEAL, aged 73 years and about 9 months . . . long a resident of Waynesboro', Augusta county. [13 August 1856]

April 4th, 1856, Amanda [DEFFENBAUGH], third daughter of Henry and Margaret Deffenbaugh, in the fourth year of her age. [16 April 1856]

Departed this life, near Mount Solon, on Tuesday the 18th inst., Capt. John DENNISON, in the 37th year of his age . . . leaves a wife and four children . . . was a member of the Board of Overseers of the Poor. [26 March 1856]

On the 3rd inst., at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. Frederick Burns, near Waynesboro', Mr. Willah DOLD, in the 85th year of his age. [RV 12 July 1856]

In this place, on the 5th inst., Miss Frances Ellen DULL, aged 16 years, 10 months and 13 days—daughter of Philip Dull, dec'd. [RV 15 November 1856]

In this place, on the 9th inst., Mrs. Margaret DULL, wife of Jacob Dull, aged 54 years. [RV 23 August 1856]

At his residence near Deerfield, Augusta Co., on the 26th of October, Mr. Robert DUNLAP, in the 83rd year of his age. [19 November 1856]

At his residence near Junction Store, Botetourt county, Va., July 29th . . . Dr. John EAGON, in the 60th year of his age . . . born and raised in . . . Staunton . . . where he resided for many years . . . studied medicine, and attended the Medical Lectures, at the Medical College, Ohio, Cincinnati, and became a successful practitioner . . . twice elected Mayor of his native town . . . In . . . 1834 he removed to White Hall, Albemarle county, where he married a daughter of Col. Charles Yancey. In 1850, he removed to Covington, in Alleghany county, where he remained nearly two years; and then removed to . . . Botetourt . . . [left] wife and seven . . . children. [13 August 1856]

On Monday last, Mr. W. H. EBDON, a native of the Island of Jersey, Great Britain, but for some years past a citizen of Staunton. [RV 5 April 1856]

In Albemarle county, on Friday last, Mrs. Mary ESKRIDGE, wife of Mr. William C. Eskridge, of Staunton. [4 June 1856] . . . May 30th. [RV 7 June 1856]

Mr. E. G. EVERETT [See James Armstrong 14 May 1856]

At the residence of Wm. Taylor, is this place, on the 5th, Mary Ellen [FARRISH], only child of Thomas Farrish, aged 5 years and eight months. [RV 10 May 1856]

On the 13th of October last, at the residence of his father, in this county, James Marshall FIFER, in the 25th year of his age . . . united with the Methodist Church. [13 February 1856] . . . 18th of October. [RV 16 February 1856]

Departed this life near the Valley Mills, on the 1st inst. . . . Mrs. Mary FOUTZ, consort of David Foutz, aged 68 years, 2 months and 28 days. [7 January 1856]

On the 5th of November, at Clover Hill, his late residence, in Augusta county, William GAMBLE, in the sixty-fourth year of his age. [26 November 1856]

On Sabbath evening, the 13th inst., Mrs. Betsy GILKESON, in the 78th year of her age. [23 January 1856]

On Tuesday night, the 29th ult., Mr. George GORDON, one of the oldest citizens of this place. [7 May 1856] . . . at his residence . . . member of the Masonic Fraternity. [RV 3 May 1856]

Found dead on the Back Mountain, in Augusta county, October 15th, George W. GORDON, in the 22d year of his age . . . no relations attended his funeral. [19 November 1856]

On Sunday, July 27, Robert Emmett [GRAVES], infant son of A. W. and Elizabeth Graves, of this place. [6 August 1856]

On Friday, August 29th, at the residence of her mother, in this place, Mrs. Catherine GROVE, aged thirty years. [17 September 1856]

In Stockholm, California, on the 25th of March last, Mr. Samuel C. GROVE, formerly of Staunton. [7 May 1856] . . . at his residence

. . . in the 38th year of his age, Mr. Samuel Clarke GROVE . . . united . . . with Presbyterian Church. [4 June 1856]. . . aged 37 years. [RV 10 May 1856]

On the 8th inst., George Nicholson [HARMAN], the youngest child of M. G. and Caroline Harman, aged about 14 months. [16 July 1856]

At his residence in Churchville, on the 15th inst., Mr. Wiley HARRIS, aged 77 years, 11 months and 7 days. [30 April 1856]

On Sunday morning last . . . the Rev. John HENDREN, D. D., for many years pastor of Union Presbyterian Church, in this county. [15 October 1856] Tributes of Respect . . . Session of Union Church . . . Union Church Congregation . . . bonds which have bound us together as Pastor and People for nearly *forty years*. [29 October 1856]

In this county, on the 14th of January, Martha HIDEN, in the 81st year of her age. [6 February 1856]

On the 27th ult. . . Mrs. Margaret HUMPHRYS, wife of Mr. Samuel Humphrys, of this county, aged 67 years . . . member of the Presbyterian Church of Bethel, of which her husband is an Elder . . . children. [5 March 1856]. . . Mrs. Margaret HUMPHREYS . . . aged 97 years. [RV 8 March 1856]

Departed this life on the 13th of February last, at the residence of his son in Augusta County, Mr. George HUPPMAN, aged 92 years and 2 months . . . emigrated to this State from Pennsylvania in early life . . . member of the United Brethren Church . . . left *eight* children, *fifty-seven* grand children, and *ninety-three* great grand children. [RV 5 April 1856]

On Wednesday night, the 18th inst., at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. R. Johnson, Mr. John JENNINGS, in the 85th year of his age. [21 May 1856]. . . Robert Johnson, in this place, on the 8th instant. [RV 10 May 1856]

At his residence in this place, on Sunday morning last . . . Robert Porterfield KINNEY, Esq. . . . talented member of the Staunton bar. [10 December 1856]. . . the 6th inst. . . in the 36th year of his age. [RV 13 December 1856] Tributes of Respect . . . Staunton Bar . . . afflicted widow, children and parents. [17 December 1856] Staunton Lodge, No. 45, I. O. O. F. [24 December 1856]

On Thursday evening last, Mr. Gasper KOINER, in the 93d year of his age—a respectable citizen of this county. [12 November 1856] . . . in the vicinity of Waynesboro', on Friday morning, the 31st of October . . . Mr. Kasper KOINER . . . born in Millerstown, Pa., on the 25 day of September 1764 . . . member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. For seventy-three years . . . when he was about twenty-two years of age—left his native State, his christian parents . . . After

making his home in Augusta county, he soon learned that he was . . . cut off from the privileges of the church of his fathers . . . he associated with himself three young brothers in the Faith—Jacob Barger, Kasper Clemens and Nicholas Bush . . . they united their energies to build a Lutheran house of worship . . . the first Lutheran Church built in the County of Augusta. [RV 15 November 1856]

On the 25th ult., Mary Susan KOINER, daughter of Col. Solomon Koiner, of this county, aged 12 years. [2 July 1856]

. . . on the 3d day of July last, in Granada, while on his way to join Gen. Walker, in Nicaragua, John C. KYLE, late of this town, died of cholera . . . was raised in Staunton, and was for some time engaged in the mercantile business. [RV 16 August 1856]

*From the Wetumpka (Ala.) Spectator.* Departed this life . . . at his residence in this place . . . on . . . the 1st ult., William Sheridan KYLE, Esq. . . was born in Fincastle, Botetourt County, Virginia, in 1806. At an early age he was placed in an Academy near Richmond . . . graduated at Union College, New York, in July 1830 . . . In the autumn of that year he returned to his native state, entered the law office of General Briscoe G. Baldwin, in Staunton . . . In . . . 1832 he . . . married a daughter of Capt. Henry McClung . . . reached Montgomery in . . . 1833. Wetumpka was then just emerging from the forest, and here he made his home. [6 February 1856]

On the 10th inst. . . in Chilicothe, Peoria county, Illinois . . . Mr. Jonathan LEONARD, formerly of this county. He leaves a wife and one child. [24 December 1856]

Marietta T. [LOGAN], daughter of William M. Logan, formerly of Augusta county, Va., departed this life on the 25th of September . . . at the residence of Jas. Hoge, in Wythe county, Va.—aged 16 years and 23 days . . . In October, 1855, she connected herself with the church. [31 December 1856]

In Middlebrook, on the 13th ult., Mrs. Margaret LOWMAN, widow of Barnhard Lowman, dec'd., aged 82 years. [16 April 1856] . . . widow of Barnhard Lowman. [RV 19 April 1856]

. . . in Waynesborough, on Saturday evening the 26th of July, Nannie Rodes [MASSIE], youngest daughter of Nathaniel Massie, Esq., in the twelfth year of her age . . . youngest member of a large family . . . only daughter of her mother. [6 August 1856]

Departed this life at her residence, near Mathews ville, in Pocahontas county, Va. . . the 17th inst., Mrs. Nancy MATHEWS, relict of Jacob M. Mathews, in the 53rd year of her age . . . was the fourth daughter of Rev. Jno. McCue, late of Augusta county, and for the last twenty-seven years . . . a resident of Pocahontas county . . . her husband . . . [was] struck down . . . a few years ago, away from home . . . has left two devoted daughters, both married. [27 February 1856]

At the Salt Sulphur Springs, on Wednesday last . . . Mr. William McCHESNEY, of this county . . . interred at Tinkling Spring on Sunday. [16 July 1856] on the 9th inst. [RV 19 July 1856]

On Saturday, the 6th inst. . . Mrs. Sarah McCUE, relict of the late Moses McCue, Esq., in the 83rd year of her age. [16 April 1856] In this place . . . at the residence of her son, Col. M. H. McCue. [RV 12 April 1856]

In Little Rock, Arkansas, on the 8th inst., Mrs. Nancy C. McCULLOCH, aged 38 years . . . native of Rockingham county, Va., and widow of the late Dr. McCulloch, of this county. [30 January 1856]

In Staunton, on Wednesday night the 10th inst., Mrs. Margaret McDOWELL, at an advanced age. [23 January 1856] At her residence . . . on the 9th instant, Mrs. Patsy McDOWELL. [RV 12 January 1856]

In this place, on Wednesday last, C. P. McKINNIE, Esq., and old and highly respected citizen of Charlottesville. [9 January 1856]

At her residence, in this county, on . . . the 10th ult. . . Miss Jane McNUTT, in the 78th year of her age . . . member of the Presbyterian Church. [3 September 1856] Miss Jane McNUIT [RV 6 September 1856]

On Friday, the 3rd inst., Mr. Robert McPHEETERS, an old . . . citizen of this county. [15 October 1856]

On Friday, the 18th inst., Mr. Robert MOFFETT, a highly respectable citizen of this county, aged 61 years. [30 July 1856]

Suddenly, on the 16th of February, near Spring Hill, Augusta county, Mrs. Lydia MURRY, aged 35 years, 11 months and 16 days, consort of James Murry . . . leaves a husband and five children. [26 March 1856]

On the 27th of Jan. last, at the Valley Mills, Sarah Ann PALMER, the 3rd daughter of Capt. Palmer; and at the same place, on the 8th inst., Elizabeth PALMER, wife of said Palmer. [12 March 1856]

In Columbus, Mississippi, on the 27th of February . . . in the 37th year of his age, Wm. H. H. PATTERSON, a native of Augusta county, Va., and for many years a resident of Charlottesville. [12 March 1856] . . . sheriff of Lowndes county, and died in his 37th year. [RV 15 March 1856]

Died in Staunton, on . . . the 8th inst., in her fourth year, Bettie George [PERRIN], daughter of Mr. Wm. A. Perrin. [14 May 1856]. . . 9th instant . . . only child . . . aged about 2 years and 3 months. [RV 10 May 1856]

On the 2nd inst. . . Wm. Bernard PEYTON, the adopted son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. B. Peyton. [7 May 1856]

At the Virginia Hotel in this place, on the 13th inst., Willie Bernard PEYTON, aged two years . . . was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Peyton from one of the Charity Hospitals of . . . Philadelphia . . . It has not been many months since these kind parents lost an adopted child, chosen by them from the orphans left in Norfolk. [17 September 1856]

Mr. W. T. H. POLLARD, of Hanover county, Va., died at the Virginia Hotel in this place on the 8th inst. He arrived here with his family on the 26th of June, en route for the Springs. [RV 12 July 1856]

Near Mt. Solon, on Saturday the 12th inst., William RALSTON, in the 75th year of his age. [23 January 1856]

The Circuit Court was engaged during the greater part of last week in the trial of Blake Randall, a citizen of this county, for the murder of William RANDALL, his own father . . . [who] was a violent, drinking, dangerous and worthless man . . . cruelly beating his wife, his wife's aged mother and even his son . . . The old man . . . of powerful frame . . . prosecuted by Col. Harman, and defended by Messrs. Stuart, Baldwin, W. S. H. Baylor and George Baylor . . . "involuntary manslaughter." [11 June 1856] Blakey Randell, living near Mt. Solon, in this County, killed his father Wm. RANDELL on the 22d inst., while defending himself. [RV 5 January 1856] A man named RANDEL, living near Sangersville, Augusta county, was murdered on Sunday night the 23d inst., by his own son. [1 January 1856]

. . . in neighborhood of New Hope, on Monday evening last, Theodore Virginus ROBERTS, son of Dr. Wm. R. Roberts, a youth of 12 years of age, left home, driving a two-horse wagon, in company with one of his brothers and his uncle, Mr. Gentry . . . the horses became frightened . . . fell . . . producing a violent concussion of the brain. [26 November 1856]

Departed this life on the 29th of March last, at the Warm Springs in Bath County Margaret M. ROBERTSON, only child of H. H. and C. E. Robertson, late of Staunton, aged four years, eleven months and twelve days . . . left Staunton only three weeks ago, with her father and mother for their new home at the Warm Springs. [RV 5 April 1856]

. . . Mr. John ROLLER, Sr. . . departed this life . . . 12th of October, in the 60th year of his age. [RV 8 November 1856]

On Wednesday morning the 5th inst., at his residence on the Long Meadows . . . Mr. Abraham ROOT, aged about 80 years, for many years a respectable citizen of this county. [RV 15 March 1856]

On the 6th inst., Mr. Andrew B. RUDELL, of Waynesborough, aged 46 years, 8 months and 3 days, leaving a wife and 3 children. [16 April 1856]

On the 18th inst., Mary Frances SHAFER, youngest daughter of Levi and Sarah B. Shafer, aged 1 year and 9 months. [RV 26 July 1856]

At Barterbrook, on the 21st of February, in the twenty-eighth year of her age, Mrs. Mary F. SHELTON, wife of Dr. Thomas W. Shelton, and daughter of Jacob Van Lear of this county. [RV 12 April 1856]

On the 1st instant . . . John Thomas Henderson [SHULTZ], infant son of Thomas C. and Mildred J. Shultz, age 4 months and 1 day. [RV 16 August 1856]

On Friday morning last . . . Mrs. Margaret Ann SMITHEE, wife of Dr. John M. Smithee, of this place. [7 January 1856]

On the 11th inst., in the neighborhood of Barterbrook . . . Miss Susan M. STAKELY, oldest daughter of Mr. Geo. Stakely in the 18th year of her age. . . . [leaves] parents, brothers and sisters . . . interred in burying ground at Bethlehem church. [24 December 1856]

We are pained to learn, on Thursday last . . . W. D. STRAUGHAN, Esq., Editor of the "Union American," of Harrisonburg had died . . . at the "Staunton Woolen Factory," near this place, the night previous . . . was on his return from a visit to Spotsylvania . . . wife . . . remains were conveyed to Spotsylvania by a Committee of the Odd Fellows and Sons of Temperance of this place . . . member of the Baptist church. [27 February 1856] . . . died at the Woolen Factory of Messrs. Crawford & Donaghe . . . about 40 years of age . . . leaves a family. [RV 23 February 1856]

From the Central Presbyterian. In the City of Richmond, on the 22nd day of June, Mrs. Martha STUART, in the 57th year of her age . . . was the daughter of Mr. William and Mrs. Mehetabel Dabney, long residents of Richmond . . . about 26 years of age, she followed her mother's pious example, and became a member of the Presbyterian Church . . . under the care of Stephen Taylor. About two years after, she married Mr. Thomas J. Stuart, of Staunton, which became her residence for the rest of her life. [2 July 1856]

On Thursday morning last, Thomas Jefferson STUART, Esq. . . . of Staunton . . . a son of the late Judge Archibald Stuart, and brother of the Hon. A. H. H. Stuart, of this place. [20 August 1856]

On Saturday the 21st inst. . . . Mrs. Hannah WHITLOCK, wife of Mr. Robert Whitlock and daughter of Mr. Absalom Clark, of Augusta county. [RV 28 June 1856]

On the 25th ult., near Freiden's Church, in this county, Susannah [WHITMER], daughter of Mr. John Whitmer, aged 9 years, 3 months and 15 days. [RV 13 December 1856]

## MEMORIES OF HANGER'S POND

By Miss Frances Martin

The John Hanger (son of Peter Hanger III) family—Sallie, William, Maude, Bertie, and their mother, Nancy—took me to raise when I was one year and a half old. I am now eighty-four years old.

I was told by the John Hanger family that Peter Hanger III married Martha Crawford in 1818 and moved from his father's (Peter Hanger II) farm called "Willow Spout" north of Staunton, Virginia, on the Valley Pike (now Route 11). The farm got the name "Willow Spout" as there was a watering trough at the side of the road so people traveling could water their horses. Traveling in those days was by horse-drawn vehicles, horseback, or walking. A branch of willow was used to prop the pipe that brought the water to the trough. The willow rooted and soon covered the pipe except where the water came out—hence, the name "Willow Spout."

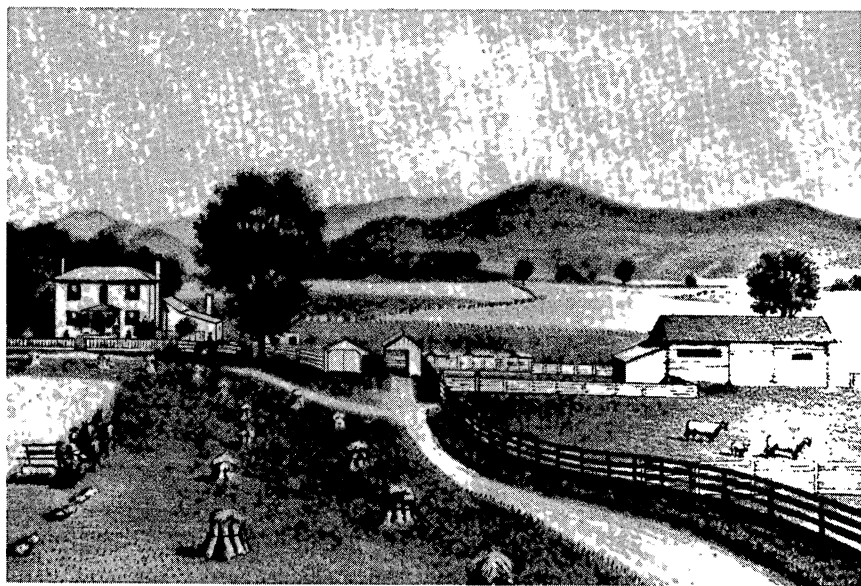
Peter Hanger III came to the farm (now known as Hanger's Pond) in 1819. When he moved there, the log house was already built. It was four rooms, two down and two up, built of logs with weatherboarding on the outside and heated by fireplaces in the two rooms on the first floor. It originally had a shingle roof, but in later years they had to put a tin roof on it. Peter Hanger III built brick rooms on each end of the log house. On the southwest end, there was a large kitchen on the first floor, with a large fireplace with a crane in it so you could cook in the



Peter and Martha Crawford Hanger of Hanger's Pond, Waynesboro, Virginia. He was actually Peter Hanger III. His father, Peter II, operated the hostelry at the Willow Spout on Route 11 near Fort Defiance. Peter I lived near Staunton on what is now Gypsy Hill Park and is buried under Trinity Episcopal Church.

fireplace. Also on the first floor were two cellars, one rather small and one large, where he kept some of the whiskey he distilled. On the second floor, there was a wide hall and four bedrooms, three large bedrooms and one small one. The reason for the small one, there was a good size closet and a narrow hall going to the small bedroom. All of the rooms were heated by fireplaces.

On the northeast end of the log part, he built four brick rooms, two up and two down, all four with fireplaces. The Hangers told me about these four rooms, as they were torn down long before I was there. Peter Hanger's son, William, had torn those four rooms down and rebuilt them on his part of the land. That farm is now owned by Mrs. Harry Nash. There was a porch on the front of the log part of the house extending about eight feet along the brick part. Also, there was a porch on the back of the log part of the house. Where the porch ended at the southwest end of the log part of the house, there was a large enclosed hallway with a big window. Coming in the double doors from a porch, there was a nine-by-twelve room with a door on the side and a big zinc sink with a water bucket and two washpans where the hired help washed up for their meals. From this room, a double pair of steps went down to



The home of Mrs. Harry Nash near Waynesboro (shown in the 1885 Atlas as the residence of Benj. F. Smith) formed the northern end of the Hanger's Pond mansion until it was moved to its present location around the hill from the remainder of the house shortly after the Civil War.

the dining room. At the bottom of the double pair of steps was a small landing. To the left was a door, and to the right a single pair of steps went up to the second floor. On the left of the single pair of steps was a narrow hallway going to the kitchen.

The dining room was on the left side of this hall, built of weatherboarding. Between this hall and the kitchen was another narrow hall, so you could go to the kitchen, cellar, to the bedroom over the kitchen, or to a small porch that ran along the south side of the dining room. It was too cold to eat in the dining room in the winter, so we ate in the kitchen, and it was too hot to eat in the kitchen in the summer.

The single pair of steps in this hallway went up to the second floor. At the top of these steps was a good size landing with a large wooden box that we kept wood and coal in to use in the fireplaces. You would burn up facing the fire, while your back would freeze.

A rounded porch, with rounded brick columns, joined to the four rooms built at the northeast end of the log part of the house. The house was so big, people traveling by would stop sometimes, thinking it was a hotel. I was told that Peter Hanger's farm extended from one county road (which is now Route 254) to the other county road, at that time called the Port Republic Road (which is now Route 865 that goes by the District Home). On the northeast side, it bordered on the road going to the Zion Church (now Route 799), and on the southwest side, it bordered on the road which is now Route 250.

What is now Route 254 was just a county dirt road, and it ran around in front of the house, so Peter Hanger III made a big pond. The water that filled the pond was from a branch that ran from a never-failing spring on the Sampson Pelter farm. The branch came on through the Pelter farm, filling the pond. After making the pond, he built a mill, ground wheat and corn, and made flour and cornmeal for himself and customers. He also had a blacksmith shop for his own use and customers. He built a distillery, sold whiskey by the barrel, quart, pint, and shipped barrels of whiskey to Richmond, Virginia. I have an old account book of Peter Hanger III, dated 1819, in which he kept account of what he sold and bought. Just a few items—he sold whiskey at fifty cents a gallon and vinegar at four dollars a barrel. Barrels to put whiskey in cost seventy-five cents each. Flour sold for two dollars a barrel, bacon ten cents a pound, coffee twenty cents a pound, corn fifty cents a bushel, wheat eighty cents a bushel, rye forty cents a bushel, potatoes forty cents a bushel. A wagon load of wood cost one dollar and a quarter a load, and you got a big wagon load.

During the War between the States, Peter Hanger III got word that the Northern Army was coming through the Valley, and he poured all of his whiskey in the big branch that ran from the mill dam through the





John Hanger and his family gathered in front of the remaining center section and brick wing of the old Hanger's Pond mansion in this 1895 photograph. Left to right are Sallie, Maud, John Hanger, Willie, Mrs. Nancy Hanger, and Bertie.



The eastern front of the Hanger's Pond mansion many years after the brick house had been removed from the northern end and reerected around the hill. Shown are members of the Hanger family and members of a neighboring farm family.

farm to South River. It was told that the horses drank from the stream where it crossed the Port Republic Road, and the horses got so drunk the soldiers could not ride them.

Close to the main house, there was an extra good deep spring. Peter Hanger III built a spring house by the spring and extended the roof over the spring and built a lattice enclosure around the spring. In the driest times, during my life there, the spring never failed. The water was always clear and cold. The water ran through a brick trough in the springhouse, and we kept our milk and butter in stone jars that we put down in the water. The water ran on out of the springhouse, making a nice branch that ran on through the farm.

At the side of the back yard was a large brick building, one room on the first floor that was used to do the laundry in. At times the hired hands would live in the room above. Just a short distance back of the dining room, the smoke house was built. Half way up it was built of stone and was finished with weatherboarding. It had two large rooms where they kept their meat.

I was told by the Hangers that, during the War between the States, the Northern soldiers came through the farm, filled their canteens, and practically dipped the spring dry, as deep as the spring was. Then the soldiers broke in the smoke house and threw out all of the meat. Peter Hanger III (his son John was away in the Army) went out on the porch to see what was going on. The General looked at him and said, "Is that you, Peter Hanger?" It seems that they knew each other from some time back. The General made the soldiers put the meat back, but Peter Hanger gave them some.

Back of the smoke house was a good size woodshed where they stored the wood to use during the winter. At the south end of the woodshed was the little back house. In the corner of the back yard a good distance from the woodshed was a house where the coal was stored to use in the fireplaces during the winter. In both the front and back yards, there were lots of big locust, sycamore, and aspen trees (they were still there in my time). A good distance from the house was a large barn and stable, a corn crib, and machine shed. Off from those buildings, a good size building stood where they kept the buggies. Next to that building was the icehouse. They gathered ice off the millpond when it froze in the winter and stored it in the icehouse. They had ice to use all summer. The icehouse was still in use in my time. Down a distance from the side of the icehouse was a large chicken house. They raised chickens, turkeys, guineas, geese, and ducks. At the side of the barnyard, there was a large house where they raised their hogs. They used to take their horses and hogs to the State fair in Richmond, Virginia.



Many of the Hanger's Pond plantation buildings can be seen in this photograph taken during the John Hanger era. Left to right are flour mill, distillery, end of mansion house brick wing, milk house, wash house, smoke house, spring house, carriage house, chicken house, corn crib and machinery shed, stable and barn.

Peter Hanger III owned some slaves, and I was told that when the slaves were freed, his would not leave him as he was always good to them. Peter Hanger III died in 1869, and his son John Hanger got the home farm and raised his family—Sallie, William, Maude, and Bertie—there. Bertie was the only one in the family to marry; she married a Mr. William Craig. They had no children. John Hanger ran the mill and the distillery for a number of years. I was told that when John Hanger was running the distillery, someone reported that he was selling whiskey and not paying the revenue on it. He placed the barrels in the cellar, some full and some empty. The revenue officer came and thumped around on the barrels and happened to hit all of the empty ones. He did not look any further. He said everything was all right and left.

John Hanger farmed one hundred and some acres (I do not remember the odd acres). He raised horses, cattle, and hogs besides the field crops. He sold and traded horses in Staunton, Virginia, and in Richmond, Virginia. There used to be in Staunton what they called Court Day. It was the first Monday every month. All the farmers and traders would meet in Staunton every Court Day and trade horses, cattle, hogs, dogs, or anything they had to trade. John Hanger sold a lot of horses, cattle, and hogs in Richmond, Virginia.

They also had a good orchard set out by Peter Hanger III. Summer rambo, maiden-blush, smokehouse, rustycoat, and little sweet red. They used to barrel a lot of apples and ship them to Richmond, Virginia.

John Hanger died in 1898 (the year I was born). Sallie Hanger, his oldest child, took over the running of the farm. They all worked on the farm, raised wheat, corn, hay, cattle, hogs, and chickens. There was a tenant house a short distance from the main house. My mother and father lived in the house, and he worked on the farm. My mother said that whenever she looked for me, I was either down at what I called the big house or going down the road to the big house. When my parents moved away, my father took me down to the Hangers and said, "If you want this brat, take her." So the Hangers kept me and raised me. They liked children, and I could not have had a better home.

As I grew up, I also helped on the farm. I worked many a day in the fields hauling corn, packing hay on the wagon, and packing sheaves of wheat on the wagon and in the barn. The distillery and mill buildings were still standing when I was old enough to know what they were, but they were not in a condition to operate. Next to the distillery was a small house where they milked the cows. Their mother did the milking, and I was just big enough to go along to keep the flies off of the cows while she was milking. I would wonder how she knew when to quit milking a cow.

# Public Sale.

AGREEABLY to the last will and testament of Peter Hanger, dec'd. will be sold, at Public Sale, at the late residence of said dec'd. on *Wednesday the 8th day of April next*, the following property, viz :



12 head of Horses with harness for the same, Cattle, Hogs and Sheep; 1 road Wagon, 1 plantation ditto—and the woodwork of a new wagon that has been made 12 or 18 months; 2 Stills (two of which are nearly new) with all their necessary appurtenances, 6 tons of Plaster Paris; 1000 Gallons of Whiskey, 250 of which has been made between 2 and 3 years; 1500 or 2000 weight of Bacon.—And at the same time & place

## 4 Likely Negro Men,

three of them between the age of 19 and 22, together with all the Farming Utensils. A credit of twelve months will be given on all purchases over Five Dollars, the purchaser giving bond with approved security. Due attendance will be given by the Executors,

**JOHN & PETER HANGER.**

March 1899.



I never would ask questions, but I found out when to stop milking after I got big enough to do the milking. You couldn't get any more milk.

We (I say we as I was always where any of the Hangers were) got up early enough every morning to make two five gallons of vanilla ice cream to take in to town to Fishburne's. They used it to make milkshakes. I remember the making of the ice cream because I got the dashers to lick after they took them out of the cans to pack the ice cream. They also took two gallons of whole milk every morning to Drake's Drug Store. They also sold milk to lots of customers in Waynesboro. I remember when they first started selling milk, they got eight cents a quart, four cents a pint, and fifteen cents a pint for good thick whipping cream. We sold frying chickens dressed for fifteen cents a pound, grown hens dressed for twenty cents a pound.

We always had a good garden, raised all kinds of vegetables, and sold lots of vegetables to customers in Waynesboro. Snapbeans were one dollar a bushel, tomatoes one dollar a bushel, potatoes one dollar a bushel, cantaloupes fifteen and twenty cents a piece, roasting ears (corn) twenty-five cents a dozen. The big branch that ran from the mill dam had a lot of watercress in it. They used to cut it and tie it in bunches, pack it in barrels with layers of ice, and ship it to New York. It brought fourteen dollars a barrel.

Judge C. G. Quesenbery's family now owns the John Hanger farm. When he tore down the house, the logs in the old log part of the house were as sound as the day the house was built. He had them smoothed off and used them in the ceiling of his kitchen and den and a mantelpiece over the fireplace in the den. He found a few of the rounded bricks and had them placed in the end of his house.

## IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Houston I. Todd

Mr. E. Theodore Webb

## NEW MEMBERS

Since May, 1982

Ms. Doris M. Brown, Waynesboro, Virginia

Mr. and Mrs. Madison Brown, Staunton, Virginia

Mr. Clyde F. Conner, Stuarts Draft, Virginia

Mrs. Gene Crain, Greer, South Carolina

Ms. Juanita G. Grant, Danville, Virginia

Mr. George DeLancey Hanger, Roanoke, Virginia

Mrs. Martha F. Jones, Cameron, Missouri

Mrs. Betsy N. Jordan, Waynesboro, Virginia

Mr. Phillip R. Knowles, Jr., Staunton, Virginia

Mrs. Robert E. Nitz, Honolulu, Hawaii

Mrs. Mary Abney Smith, Staunton, Virginia

Mrs. Jean Y. Wilkins, Staunton, Virginia

## Presidents of the Augusta County Historical Society

\*Dr. Richard P. Bell, 1964-1966

\*Harry Lee Nash, Jr., 1966-1967

\*Dr. Marshall M. Brice, 1967-1968

\*Dr. James Sprunt, 1968-1970

\*Richard M. Hamrick, Jr., 1970-1972

Joseph B. Yount III, 1972-1974

\*Mrs. William Bushman, 1974-1976

\*John M. Dunlap, Jr., 1976-1977

Miss Mary Kathryn Blackwell, 1977-1979

Mrs. Harry D. Hevener, 1979-1981

\*John M. McChesney, Jr., 1981-1983

---

\*denotes Charter Member of Society

Corrections to May, 1982, Old Homes of Augusta County, #28 of a Series

page 36: It was built sometime in the 1700s (first paragraph)

In the entrance hall there stands a historic grandfather's clock owned by the Dundores and made sometime in the 1700s (paragraph 3)

page 38 It was renovated in the 1840s and 1978 and still keeps excellent time. (Paragraph 3)

The exterior of the house was of *narrow weatherboarding*. (paragraph 4)  
Omit the phrase "in the basement" at end of the first sentence in paragraph 4.

The original *smoke* house stands just behind the house. A never failing supply of cool fresh water *comes from* four springs—

When Mrs. Suter remodeled she thought it best to use *wide redwood* siding—

page 42 After graduation she taught mathematics 13 years and was a college administrator for 13 years until her retirement when she returned to Virginia, and this lovely home. (final paragraph)